

Washington, DC - Calling it a step in the right direction to "Rid our great Valley of this devastating drug," Congressman Jim Costa urged passage of HR 3889; The Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Act scheduled for a vote today (?).

The pending legislation has in it all the qualities that will provide law enforcement agencies with the tools necessary to fight this drug problem. "By limiting access to cold medication, increasing penalties and funding law enforcement this bill gives local and state officials the resources to dismantle meth in our communities," Costa stated.

Costa pointed out that methamphetamines are California's largest drug threat and the Valley suffers one of the highest rates of production and use. Local agencies have seized over 13,500 pounds of meth in the last three years. "These rates are alarming," the Fresno lawmaker noted, "and now is the time for federal, state and local officials to work together for a range of solutions."

As a California legislator Costa authored a law raising penalties for trafficking, manufacturing and sale of meth to the same level as heroin and cocaine.